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## **GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY, MARYLAND RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVANCES**

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (October 6, 2008)** – Maryland was recognized today as one of the nation's "most improved" states for energy efficiency by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Maryland jumped eight spots in the rankings up to number 12 in the nation on the strength of Governor O'Malley's energy initiatives.

Maryland was recognized for passing one of the nation's most ambitious energy efficiency goals, the EmPOWER Maryland Act of 2008, which requires per capita electricity consumption to be cut 15% by 2015. This goal recognizes that decreasing electricity demand is the fastest and cheapest way to reduce consumers' bills, address Maryland's looming electricity shortage and lessen the state's carbon footprint. When fully implemented, EmPOWER Maryland will avoid the need to build more than three new power plants and save households an average of \$16 a month on their electricity bill.

"Energy efficiency is a key component of our efforts to build a more secure, stable, and sustainable future for Maryland," Governor O'Malley said. "The complexity of our current challenge demands that we pursue a number of different paths which we hope will converge on the horizon of possibilities with other paths being pursued in science, technology, chemistry, and physics - here and around the world."

The ACEEE report does not include many new programs being developed by the Maryland Energy Administration to cement Maryland's reputation as a leader in energy-efficiency. One example is the Maryland Home Performance Program which provides a one-stop shop to enable homeowners to make whole house energy-efficiency improvements using nationally certified contractors.

"We are proud of our place as one of the most improved states," noted MEA Director Malcolm Woolf. "We have been recognized as a leader in clean energy and energy efficiency. MEA is committed to using every resource available to help consumers reduce their energy bills."

Since taking office, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has taken a number of steps to secure Maryland's energy future, including:

- Launched the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, setting one of the most ambitious goals in the nation to decrease per capita electricity consumption 15% by 2015, which when fully implemented will save Marylanders \$5.7 billion (an average of \$190 per household annually)
- Created the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to allow Maryland to take control of its energy future by investing in energy efficiency technology and clean, renewable power;
- Fought for \$170 refund for every BGE customer and saved over \$2 billion in avoided costs that also would have been passed on to the consumer;
- Promoted diversification of Maryland's electricity sources by significantly expanding solar and geothermal grants and more than doubling the amount of clean, renewable energy that power companies must purchase;
- Mandated construction of energy efficient green buildings and schools to establish a more secure, sustainable energy future; and
- Led efforts to implement Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to control carbon dioxide emissions in United States and supported the Global Warming Solutions Act.

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